

THE FIRST WORD



First Christian Church

Vol. 18 No. 4

Lent & Easter Issue

From your Pastor



Dear Members and Friends,

TIME. Time is something we all have. 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week, over 8,400 hours in a year. **TIME.** Something we can often squander, or take for granted. And it passes so quickly. Just last month we were putting away the rest of the Christmas decorations — trees, lights and ornaments all carefully packed and stored. And in less than a month, the season of Lent, the **time** to reflect on the passions of Jesus, begins.

As I sat, meditating, planning, and praying for guidance for this coming season of Lent, the words of King David come to mind. Words that I believe are the most passionate plea ever recorded. Here was a man whom God loved. A man who was given great power, wisdom, and wealth, but misused it all. The punishment inflicted by God was swift and complete. In the lowest point in David's life, he cries out "Have mercy on me, O God, cleanse me from my sin." He saw he was wrong, and before his **time** ran out, pleaded with God to be forgiven.

The season of Lent is such a **time** for us. Not only is it a **time** to reflect on our Lord's passion and resurrection, but also a **time** for us to consider our mortality, our sinful nature, as well as asking for God's mercy and forgiveness that leads to the renewal of our faith.

I invite you to begin our Lenten journey together at our Ash Wednesday Service on March 1st at 6:00 p.m. and then together, embark on a 40 day journey to discover God's unending love. Come join us for a **time** for self-examination, a **time** of repentance, a **time** of prayer, and a **time** for meditation on God's Holy Word.

May your lives be filled with God's love.

Pastor Rich





Schedule for LENT

March 1 - Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 p.m.

March 15 Wednesday Lent Service 6:00 p.m.

March 29 Wednesday Lent Service 6:00 p.m.

April 9 Palm Sunday



April 13 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m..



April 16 Easter Sunday



There will be dramatic readings and special music each Sunday.

Please note !!



Pastor Rich office hours on **Tuesdays - 10:00 to 2:00**. You can also call the office if you need a different time to meet with him.

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We want to up-
date our key list.



If you have a key, please see Rich or George so we can mark what number you have. Also, if you have a key and it is no longer needed, please see Rich or George and turn it in.

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AFTER SCHOOL Program

There is a sign up sheet if you would like to donate snacks for our students. We would like "good for you" snacks—not too much sugary items please! - - - Thanks!!

TIME CHANGE!

Spring ahead on Sunday

March 12th!!

After School Program



Since October we have hosted an after school program for youth from Ashland Middle School. This is the second year that this outreach program by our church has provided a safe space for these youth to experience positive and healthy relationships with older teens and adults. The time together has consisted of a healthy snack, recreation, living skills, creative arts options, and homework assistance. This year the counseling group **Encompass** is joining us. **Andrew and Yvette** come in for 45 minutes each week to provide other programming for the young people. We also have volunteers from the **AU Theta Phi Alpha sorority**. We thank these girls for their interest in our program. We also thank **Rev. Matt Potasky**, of Albion Church, who has volunteered to work with an art projects once a month. We continue to receive positive and encouraging feedback from the Middle School and their appreciation for what we are doing here. The success of this program certainly lies with the number of volunteers who have given of their time and shared their love with these kids. We thank our own young people for their help. **Nate Whitmer, Alexis, Lauren & Rachel Hastings** work with the students each week. **Nate and his friend Peter** are Honor students and are available to help with homework. We also thank those who have furnished snacks each week. Feel free to stop at church on one of our Wednesday afternoons to see what is taking place and how these young lives are being impacted through this program.

If you have a project you think the young people would enjoy, please let Linda Gardner or Rich know. It can be cooking, sewing or crafts. We try to offer a variety of things for them. This past week we did "Ice Cream in a bag". If you are at all creative, we can use you - - even for an hour or so!

We will have a sign-up for snacks if you can help out there. We try to offer them fruit, cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, pizza, grilled cheese sandwiches—they are always hungry! Thanks for your interest!



Thank You



We had many **thank you's** for the Christmas Gift Remembrances from those unable to attend. We delivered 24 well-filled bags. **Thanks** to for those who brought in the items. Many just told us it is nice to be remembered by their church family!

Carol and Jim Imhoff wish to **thank** Linda Gardner for bringing communion, Jan Robinson for delivering the "goodie bag" and Ralph and Carol Wertz for bringing food. Also to Pastor Rich for the hospital visit. Jim is out of the hospital now and we pray for a quick recovery.

We get so many **thank you's** from our friends at **Belmont Tower**. We have a worship service the first Sunday of each month and they are always ready for us! They love Rich's message and of course love Brian when he plays the piano and leads the singing. We serve communion each visit. It is heart warming to see how happy and **thankful** they are. You might want to come and join us some Sunday and feel the **love!**



Garry Burgett has enlisted in the Army and I am sure he would love to hear from us. His address is:

PVT Burgett, Garry

2PLT C Co. 35th EN BN

6221 Iowa Ave.

Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

(on the back of the envelope write 2nd PLT and circle it)

We will be praying for Garry during his time of service.

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 2 Glenn Gallaway

Mar 6 Nancy Steigerwalt

Mar 9 Sue Detrow

Mar 22 Miriam Brady

Mar 22 Carol Wertz

Mar 25 Randy Gearhart

Mar 26 Garry Burgett (son)

Mar 27 David Bell

Mar 27 Ellie Wells

Mar 31 Kim Mercer

Mar 31 Stephanie Fryman

Apr 4 Stephanie Brown

Apr 4 Bill Jackson

Apr 9 Garry Burgett

Apr 15 Marcia Gallaway



We are doing **"Random Acts of Kindness"** each month. For the month of February we are collecting bathroom tissue and facial tissue for the Associated Charities. There will be something new each month. We encourage everyone to "Keep Smiling" at everyone you meet, buy coffee for someone, let someone go ahead of you in line— just try to make a difference in someone else's life and it will make you feel good too!



There is a **sign-up sheet** for **diaconate** choices. We would like to know who can prepare communion on Sunday, who can serve communion on Sunday, and who could take communion to our homebound on the first of each month. Please consider how you can help!

2017 Leadership Team and Officers

George Paulsen—Leadership Chair

Linda Gardner - Treasurer

Kim Mercer - Financial Secretary

Sue Detrow — Ass't Financial Secretary

Trustees — David Bell George Paulsen,
Kevin Repp & Ralph Wertz

At Large Members — Sara Stewart, Mary Ann
Welch & Amy Shakley

Elders — Linda Gardner, Lana Bell, Yvonne
Kimball, Jenny Hastings, Donita Pate,
& Todd Whitmer

Elder Chair — Linda Gardner

Worship Chair — Lana Bell





**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1425 King Road
Ashland, Ohio 44805
419-289-7439
Rich Pate, Pastor
Brian Nabors, Director of Music
firstchristianchurch@zoominternet.net
www.firstchristianashland.org
Pastor-Rich@zoominternet.net**